

JUN 14 1960

Approved For Release 1999/09/17 : CIA-RDP75-00001R

STATINTL

Treated Well by Soviet, Powers Writes Wife

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., June 14 (AP). — The wife of an American flyer imprisoned in Russia on spy charges said today he had written her that he is being treated well.

Mrs. Barbara Gay Powers, 25, said she received the letter May 31 from Francis Gary Powers, 30, in regular mail. It was postmarked May 26 in Moscow.

Dr. James Baugh, Mrs. Powers' physician, read her statement at a news conference at Milledgeville, where she is staying at the home of her mother, Mrs. Monteen Brown.

Mrs. Powers was not present at the conference.

Dr. Baugh said the envelope had a return address which he declined to disclose other than to say it was a Moscow street address. He said the letter showed no signs of having been censored. The letter itself was not made public and Dr. Baugh read Mrs. Powers' prepared statement on her impressions of it.

The statement said:

"It has meant a great deal



MRS. POWERS

to me to know that my husband is safe and is being treated well. I am greatly appreciative of the Soviet Government for allowing Gary to write. I have consented to re-

See POWERS, Page A-6

lease contents of a letter from my husband which I received through ordinary mail May 31. (However, all she released was her interpretation of the letter's contents.)

"The letter originated in Moscow and was dated May 26. The letter was written in Gary's handwriting and did not appear to be restrained. He described his first sensation of coming down in a parachute, landing and receiving a minor skin wound on the face.

"He was taken into custody. A lady physician treated his wound.

"A few days later his appetite returned. He is getting plenty of food and is being treated well.

"A few days after his capture he was taken on a tour of Moscow and shown the remains of his plane. He described Moscow as a beautiful city.

"In prison he has books to read and he knew of my returning home from Turkey. The prison room has a yard where he gets sunshine.

"My husband has no idea of his ultimate fate. They have told him he will be tried in accordance with Act Two of the Soviet code for espionage. Conviction carries a sentence of seven years to death.

"I am hopeful that my husband will be returned soon. I am constantly praying that Premier Khrushchev will reunite us as he has in other cases.

"A great deal of the letter was concerned with personal things."

Dr. Baugh, answering questions after reading the statement, said Mr. Powers had encouraged his wife to visit Moscow. He said the Soviet government has said his relatives can come and that he needs them more during and after the trial.

Dr. Baugh released this one personal excerpt from the letter:

"Our boat trip back will have to be postponed and the home we planned will have to be put off."

Mr. Powers was captured May 1 and charged with being a spy after his plane was downed deep in Soviet territory. The incident brought international repercussions. Several weeks later his wife was flown to the United States from Turkey, where she was recovering from a leg broken in a skiing accident.

Yesterday Oliver W. Powers, father of the pilot, obtained approval from both United States and Soviet officials to go to Moscow to help his son.

The elder Powers, a 55-year-old cobbler from Pound, Va., obtained a passport for 90 days. He indicated to newsmen in Washington he planned to go in August.